



Refreshments and Activities at Your Lodge

Refreshments served in the evening will be at 6:00 P.M. and the Refreshments in the morning and will be served at 9:00 A.M. except when otherwise noted.

March 4, 2023	Initiatory Degree 7:00pm Refreshments – Fried Chicken, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Salad, Rolls, Soda, Tea, Coffee, and Water
March 11, 2023	Morning Meeting 10:00am Refreshments – Breakfast Sandwich's Milk, Orange Juice, Soda, Coffee and Water
March 18, 2023	Regular Meeting 7:00pm Refreshments – Corned Beef and Cabbage, Salad, Dessert Soda, Coffee and Water
March 25, 2023	First Degree 7:00pm Refreshments Meat Loaf, Mash Potatoes, Mixed Vegetables Salad, Soda, Tea, Coffee, & Water
April 1, 2023	Regular Meeting 7:00pm Refreshments – Chili 3 ways, Hot Dogs, Shoe String Potatoes Soda, Tea, Coffee, and Water
April 8, 2023 Bingo	Regular Meeting 7:00pm Refreshments – Ham, Potato Salad, Green Beans, Salad, Rolls, Pies Soda, Tea, Coffee, and Water
April 15, 2023	Second Degree 7:00pm Refreshments – - Mostaccioli, Salad, Rolls Soda, Coffee and Water
April 22, 2023	Morning Meeting 10:00am Refreshments – Bagels & Donuts Milk, Orange Juice, Soda, Coffee and Water
April 29, 2023	Third Degree 7:00pm Refreshments – - Pizza & Salad, Soda, Coffee and Water





LINK-N-LINES



The Official News of St. Louis Lodge No. 5, I.O.O.F.

INSTITUTED AUGUST 21, 1841 RAY WHITE - EDITOR HENRY E. KOTTEMANN - FOUNDER

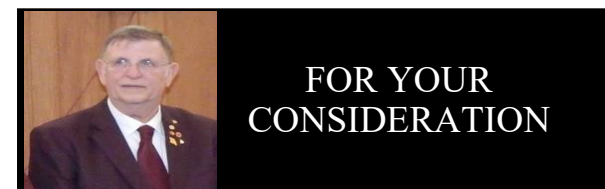
Website: www.ioof-stl.org Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ioofstl/>



ST. LOUIS LODGE NO. 5, I.O.O.F.

P.O. Box 1467 FENTON, MISSOURI . 63026

MARCH - APRIL 2023



This Lodge is now One Hundred Eighty-One Years old. In nineteen years, we will have attained Two Hundred years of existence. We are not the oldest lodge in Missouri, nor are we the youngest. The only ones before us are Wildey Lodge No. 2 and Boonville Lodge No. 4, and both are struggling to maintain membership.

Will we be here in nineteen years? Will we be a fraternal lodge or a social club? Will there be degree work or just a gathering of calling ourselves Odd Fellows? Odd Fellows with no real meaning of the title. I stand in judgement of no one but the lodge itself based on past history and future outlook. Right now, that future looks somewhat dim.

Consider this, forty years ago we had almost 400 members, today we have less than 150. Each year members pass to their rewards at the rate of four to six a year. We take in two new members each year on the average. You don't need to be a whiz at mathematics to see how this will eventually turn out. The reverse of this is that each year our treasury grows. Forty years ago, income just about matched expenses.

(Continue on page 5)



Jose Hernandez

A Message From Our Noble Grand Officers and Members Greetings everyone!

To begin, I want to express my gratitude for the opportunity to serve as your Noble Grand.

As we look ahead to 2023, we anticipate new challenges, but we remain committed to supporting our local community through initiatives such as local charities, scholarships, and safety coffee breaks.

To successfully plan and coordinate these activities, we need your help. I understand that life can be busy, and if you have been a passive member in the past, I want to assure you that I appreciate the demands on your time. However, through my own regular attendance and participation in lodge activities, I have come to deeply value the work that we do and the relationships that we build. I urge all members to attend meetings when possible and to contribute to our efforts to maintain the traditions and accomplishments of our lodge. I am excited for what lies ahead in 2023 and the chance to rise to these new challenges.

Jose Hernandez
Noble Grand

Things to think about



Railroad Engineers were assigned to developing a safe wind screen for a high speed train. They were using chickens to simulate bird strikes with the results not good. After months of testing, in frustration, they sent the test and results to their counterpart in Great Britain asking for their advice. Within twenty-four hours the advice came back; "Thaw out the chickens first!" A bit of dark humor from Craig Skinner.



"It was confirmed that the man who fell off the night club roof and died, was not a bouncer."



A man walked into a bar and ordered three beers and sat down in the back of the bar. He did this everyday at 2:00 P.M. for months. The bartender asked him if he'd rather buy them one at a time so they wouldn't go flat. The man replied he had two other brothers and they agreed to have a beer for one another at the same time. This went on for some time until the man appeared and ordered just two beers. He went into the back of the bar and started drinking. The bartender went back and offered his condolences. When the man asked why, the bartender said something must have happened to one of his brothers. The man said, "Naa, me and the wife joined the Baptist Church and I had to stop drinking."

Many people don't know this but in the 19th century the aristocracy in Mexico developed a taste for mayonnaise. So much so that they contacted Hellman's in Great Britain and ordered 1,000 cases. was loaded aboard ship but didn't make it to Mexico as it sank a great storm. The Mexicans were so upset that they named that horrible day "Sinko de Mayo."



It
in

Vehicles with a message



Visit Our Website

A copy of this issue of Link-n-Lines can be found on our website. You can also find additional information about lodge activities and copies of pictures of recent events. Check us out, website is at www.ioof-stl.org

**Remember Odd Fellows Objective is
To Improve and Elevate the Character of Mankind**

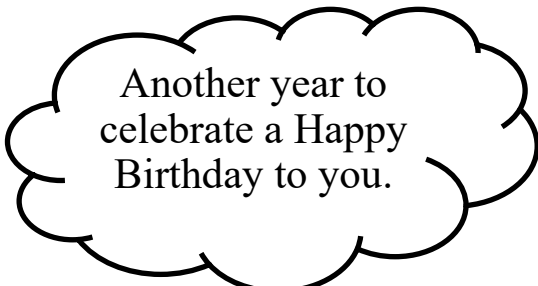
HAPPY BIRTHDAY BROTHERS

MARCH

Stanley Bialczak	26
Casey Liotta	30
Jeremy McCoy	6
Johnny Naylor	14
Gary Nelson	25
Eric Raney	23
Bill ross	15
Richard Walsh	1
Carroll R. White	30
Wyatt Wooden	12

APRIL

Ronald Angel	13
Rudolph Beuc III	9
Robert Bruckner	27
John Eckert	6
Larry Endicott	28
Lionel Goede	9
Rex Gooch	9
Mouyassar James	8
Francis Lavar	14
Jasper Mangiore	27
Paxton Rogers	20
Richard Swanson	4
Cody Wilde	13
Dwight Wyatt	8



MEMBERSHIP ENHANCEMENT DRAWING



12/03/22	Francis Lavar	WINNER
12/10/22	Robert Mayer Sr.	WINNER
12/17/22	Rodney Kleine	WINNER
12/24/22	Walter Clifton	WINNER
01/07/23	John Siscel	WINNER
01/14/23	Rodney Kleine	WINNER
01/21/23	John Eckert	WINNER
01/28/23	Larry Endicott	WINNER
02/11/23	Francis Lavar	WINNER
02/18/23	Dennis Fetter	WINNER
02/25/23	Walter Clifton	WINNER

Come to a meeting and your name could

Sick and Shut-ins

Marion Briggs.....314-773-4421

These are your brothers that are not able to get out because of injury or illness. Give them a call to let them know we are thinking about them.

LODGE OFFICERS

- Noble Grand**
Jose M. Hernandez.....314-753-3880
- Vice Grand.**
Rodney Kleine.....314-952-7941
- Secretary**
Robert J. Mayer Sr.....314-278-6065
- Financial Secretary**
Francis LaVar.....314-607-6380
- Treasurer**
Jeffrey Parrotte.....314-751-3138

Special Relief Committee

- Richard Aguilar.....314-644-1126
- Craig A. Skinner.....314-839-3081
- Larry Endicott314-452-8989

MEMBERSHIP ADDRESS

ADDRESS CHANGES



None to Report

**DON'T FORGET
TO MAKE THESE CHANGES IN YOUR ROSTER**

.....

CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

PHONE NUMBER ____ () _____

IF YOU HAVE MOVED, CLIP THIS FORM AND MAIL TO;

Robert J. Mayer Sr. - Secretary
St. Louis Lodge No.5, I.O.O.F.
337 Rauhut Ave.
Lemay Mo. 63125



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

In our last degree good questions were asked that requires an answer.

Question:

“If the Grand Lodge has done away with examinations, why do we still have them, and why do we vote on the examination if we can’t do anything to the member if we don’t like his or her answers?”

Answer:

We require examinations to ensure the candidate has learned something from the degree work. We cannot suspend, expel, or chastise if the examination is not correct. We can refuse to advance the candidate to the next degree, which is very, very rare, if the examination is a complete failure. In an extreme case, we could demand the candidate take the degree over.

Question:

“Why do we vote on an applicant if the Investigating Committee comes back with an unfavorable report?”

Answer:

Once the application has been read in open lodge and sent to an Investigating Committee, the Lodge is committed to vote whether a report comes back favorable or unfavorable. Should the candidate decide to not join, he or she, may withdraw the application before it is read in open lodge.



CONGRATULATIONS



Casey Brizendine

The members of St. Louis No. 5 congratulate **Casey Brizendine** for obtaining his third degree in this great fraternity of Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

Welcome to our family.

A story tells that two friends were walking through the desert. During some point of the journey when they had an argument, and one friend slapped the other one in the face. The one who got slapped was hurt, but without saying anything, wrote in the sand; **“Today my best friend slapped me in the face.”**

They kept on walking until they found an oasis, where they decided to take a bath. The one who had been slapped got stuck in the mire and started drowning, but the friend saved him. After he recovered from the near drowning, he wrote on a stone; **“Today my best friend saved my life.”** The friend who had slapped and saved his best friend asked him;

“After I hurt you, you wrote in the sand and now, you write on a stone, why?”

The other friend replied; when someone hurts us we should write it down in sand where winds of forgiveness can erase it away. But, when someone does something good for us, we must engrave it in stone where no wind can ever erase it.”

MORAL OF THE STORY:

Don’t value the things you have in your life. But value who you have in your life.



Friendship



Family



CONGRATULATIONS

Rick Roesch and Charles Whisenhunt were honored for their hard work over many years of service. As a result, the lodge has continued to improved because of their efforts and dedication. Thank you both for you hard work.



REMEMBER TO PAY YOUR DUES THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S CORNER

The Financial Secretary wishes to remind the members, that Lodge Dues are due on January 1, 2023. Our annual dues are now \$50.00 a year. Members who fail to pay their dues will lose their membership benefits and will not be permitted to attend any lodge activities. (such as Picnic, Banquet etc. :) If you are having financial problems paying your dues, please contact Francis LaVar for further information at **314-607-6380**.

PLEASE NOTE: It is also requested that if at any time you have any bills, or other financial transactions with the lodge please contact the Financial Secretary approximately 30 minutes prior to refreshments on Saturday so that he can give you the attention needed.

(Continue from page 1)

In the last ten-years we have moved into a modern new building, income is growing, our operating expenses are less, we are prospering only in assets, certainly not membership. Just remember, the Grand Lodge has revisionary rights to all of our assets should we surrender our charter.

Once the premier lodge in the State for performing degree work, we are now ranked even with the rest of Odd Fellow lodges. We sometimes have enough present to confer degrees, usually in short form, we read to the candidates from cheat sheets, not from memory. Sad to say, our degree work is less than average. This started a long time ago when we first accepted examinations for officers that were less than adequate. A Past Grand Master, during his term, who was a member of this lodge, did away with examinations on degree work a long time ago as it was deemed embarrassing to candidates. New brothers and sisters now have to ask how to get into a lodge that is meeting even though they were instructed during degree work. I guess that's not embarrassing?

Another problem plaguing this lodge and all lodges, is the retaining of members. Each year we suspended members for non-payment of dues that outpace the number who have died. New members received their degree work and then disappear from meetings. Eventually they fade away, neglecting payment of dues. New members need to be made to feel they are part of the lodge, that they have a place among us. That they are part of something important, vibrant, and active. They need their sponsors and mentors to keep them interested.

I leave these things to your consideration, your consideration for the future of this lodge and Odd Fellows in general. What we do now and in the future will always be, in one respect or another, for the "Good of the Order."

Respectfully
Robert J. Mayer Sr.
Secretary

**Remember our Objective
To Improve and Elevate the Character of Mankind**



Time to exercise your mind

Hidden Pictures®

Time for a Haircut

By Chuck Dillon



In this big picture, find the snake, screwdriver, mushroom, spoon, hat, carrot, nail, banana, crescent moon, saw, worm, adhesive bandage, golf club, fishhook, and candle.

Can you find these
Hidden Pictures®



snake



screwdriver



mushroom



spoon



nail



carrot



hat



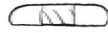
crescent
moon



banana



worm



adhesive
bandage



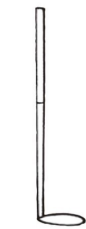
saw



candle



fishhook



golf club

BONUS!

Can you also find a
domino, cane, heart,
and lollipop?

Words of Wisdom

- The nine most terrifying words in the world are. "I'm from the government and I'm here to help you". (by Ronald Regan)
- Worrying is like a Rocking Chair. It gives you something to do, but never gets anywhere. (by Erma Brombeck)
- Confidence is what you had before you understood the problem. (by Woody Allen)
- Always forgive your enemies; nothing annoys them so much. (by Oscar Wilde)
- Anybody who tells you money can't buy happiness, never had any. (by Samuel Jackson)
- There is only one certainty in life. That is, nothing is certain. (by G.K. Chesterton)
- Don't go around. Saying the world owes you a living. The world owes you nothing. It was here first. (by Mark Twain)
- Even if you're on the right track. You'll get run over if you just sit there. (by Will Rogers)
- No one is useless in this world who lightens the burden of another. (by Charles Dickens)
- Doing nothing is very hard to do, because you never know then your finished. (by Leslie Nielsen)
- It's not enough to do our best, sometimes we have to do what is right. (by Winston Churchill)